Historic Knutsford

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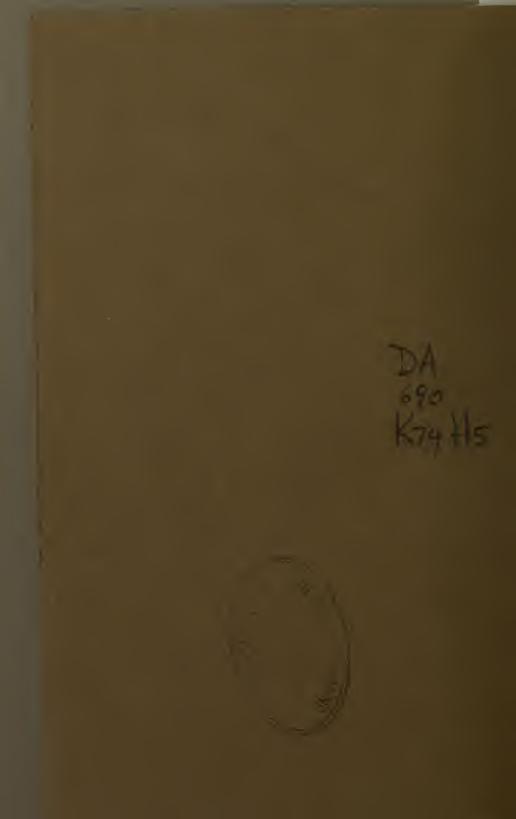
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Historic Knutsford





HISTORIC KNUTSFORD

THE inclinit town of Knut ford, it usted on the Chapter plain sixteen miles from Marchener and twenty four incles from Chester, has been sold unable by modernit. The chief street, king Street has an old world and picture que uper ance with it protruding table and it will black and white frontage. Many of the house revery old, dating from 1697, 1701 and 1705, and all places of residence, they have since been converted into slope, and several still retain fine of king and several still

Kn Ist d

the district was held by a Saxon Erchbrand at the time of the Norman Conquest, and Knotte ford, at tweeterford, seems to have been named after Knot, or Canute, who probably passed through the district in 1017

King Canale

Krut ford has many attractions, being in the centre of the Che hire hunting country, and surrounded by village equally interedting. It used to be a famous could find the centre, also from the year 1729 to 1873 is received was famous, and on racing days the country families used to drive in with their coaches and four or six.

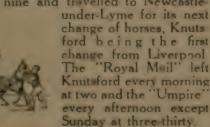
Cocks he ny and Range

It is worthy of note that Louis Napoleon (afterwards Napoleon III.) visited Knutsford about 1848, and honoured the landlord of the "Royal George" Hotel with his company on several occasions, and a trun of everal local tradesmen—Hickson, the addler, and Slater, the breeches maker.

L s Napoleon

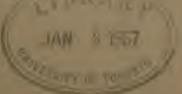
The "Genre" yard presented in animated appearance in the old coaching days, when the "Bangup" left at nine and travelled to Newcastle

Coa hing





There is no in the Rend Doorgo



Page One

The May Queen

THE crowning of the "May Queen" became a great attraction. At first it was a very simple ceremony, but is has grown to such vast proportions that on May Day it is not unusual for our own



An Early May Queen.

five to six thousand inhabitants to be swollen to thirty or forty thousand. Again, it has become, since Mrs. Gaskell was laid to rest in the grave-yard of Brook Street Chapel in 1865, a place of pilgrimage to thousands of lovers of Mrs. Gaskell's works, especially as the original of her Cranford was Knutsford, and depicted life in this small country town about the year 1836.

dance in these parts states that it was held at Rostherne in the sixteenth century; much to the annoyance of Vicar Adam Martindale, that his wife took a framing saw and cut down the pole.

Rural England Most lovers of rural England are familiar with the Elizabethan half-timbered buildings, but where else can such a fine collection of magnificent old halls and mansions be found than within a short radius of Knutsford. A short motor run brings one to Moreton Hall (1550-1559), one of the finest examples of Elizabethan architecture.

Half Timbered Churches There are also many picturesque churches in the neighbourhood, but one of the most interesting, and at the same time one of the easiest to reach from Knutsford, is Lower Peover. It is one of the very few old black and white churches, and lies about three or four miles from Knutsford; the walk across Toft Park is extremely delightful.

Appeal to Artists

The artist in search of the picturesque needs go no farther than the old coachway of the "Royal George," but a stroll through the quaint old town—where the ancient jostles the modern—will provide him with all the material he could desire.

Di k

NUTSFORD has been associated with a number of celebrated his hwaymen. Dick Turpin committed a robbery in Newbrid e Hollow that is on the main rold from Manche ter to Chester, near to what is called Lymm turning, where the River Bollin runs under the road), and afterwards rode so fast across country to the Kilton Inn at Hoo Green, four miles away, and called attention to the hour on his arrival, that when the investigating officers learned of his time of arrival they considered it impossible that he could have perpetr ted the crime.

Harrison Ainsworth's Rookwood relates the narrative, and it is of interest that Ainsworth's father was buried at Rostherne, in which parish Knutsford was only a Chapelry until 1744.

Hirgins, "The Highwayman" of De Quincey, lived at Heath House. He was truly a gentleman of the road, and married the daughter of a Cheshire quire. He went out at night to "collect his rents," made himself busy in the homes of his hunting hosts, committed many robberies, and eventually a murder t Bristol, for which he paid the extreme penalty at a marthen in 1767. Two of his children are buried in the churchyard.

Edward Higgins

On one occasion, Higgins had noted particularly

the diamonds and other jewels of Lady Warburton at the County Assembly held at the "George," and leaving early and mounting his horse he took up his station near Arley, five miles away, and would have held up the family coach had not dy Warburton, recognising him, called out "Good-night, Mr. Higgins! Why did you leave the ball so early?"



The terror of the trans

Literary Associations

NUTSFORD was the "Hollingford" of Wives and Daughters; the "Duncombe" of Mrs. Harrison's Confessions; the "Eltham" of Cousin Phillis; the "Hamley" of A Dark Night's Work; and the "Barford" of The Squire's Story.

The Royal George Hotel The "George" is mentioned by Mrs. Gaskell in many of her stories. In Cranford, Signor Brunoni performed his wonderful tricks at the Assembly Room at the "George," which had been added to the inn about a hundred years before by the different county families who met together there once a month during the winter to dance and play at cards." Miss Pole "strolled" into the "George" in search of her glove and incidentally for any information she might glean of the mysterious Signor Brunoni.

The Famous Assembly Room

Miss Matty's tea shop is now a chemists, being situated in the upper street opposite to the entrance of the George Hotel yard. In this curious Assembly Room, with its massive chandeliers and its tiny musicians' gallery, we can, in imagination, see Miss Matty and Miss Forrester "bridle" up as they enter and "walk mincingly up the room."

In Wives and Daughters, it was the "George" to which Roger Hamley ran in order to catch the London coach when Ruth caught a glimpse of him from the attic of what is now called Hollingford House.

In A Dark Night's Work, which is issued with Cousin Phillis in the Knutsford edition of Mrs. Gaskell's works, Edward Wilkins attended the Hamley Assembly which was so exclusive "that

the old original subscribers would fain have had a man prove his sixteen quarterings before he might make his bow to the queen of the night." To him, the ball-room at the "George" in his native town was a place more grand and more awful than the most magnificent salons he had seen in Paris or Rome.



Signor Brunoni at the Assembly

Aport ag

KNUTSFORD is almost entirely residential. At the present time the Cheshire hourds meet upon two days a week within easy reach of knutsford, and there is no prettier sight than a Meet it the gates of Tatton Park, the residence of the Lord Egerton of Tatton, and perhaps the largest enclosed park in England. There is ample stabling to be hired for a term for hunters or hacks, at the "George."

Knutsford is an ideal centre for motoring, being in the heart of Cheshire which is famed for its excellent roads.

Again, Knutsford being situated on the main road north and south is a favourite resting place. Many people break their journey at this old world town, and for those who take two days on a motor journey. Knusford seems to offer an ideal "half-way" station.

Halting Place

Knutsford is well served with railway and motor bus services to near by towns and cities, and many visitors, both commercial and professional, take advantage of this after busy and tiring days they find the quiet of Knutsford conducive to refreshing repose.

Accembility

The Cheshire Lines Railway from Manchester to Chester caters for railway traffic, whilst the North Western Motor 'Bus service links up with Northwich, Altrincham, Manchester, Warrington, Wigan, and various outlying districts. Knutsford is also a connecting point for the North to London Motor Cosches.

The quaint custom of sanding the streets is still practised in Knutsford on holidays and carnival days. Its origin is very doubtful. Green says it is a sinister reminder on happy days that our origin was dust! Others say it dates back to the time when King Canute's army forded the Lily at "Canute's ford," then sat down and brushed the sand from their feet.

Sanding the Streets

THE HISTORIC ROYAL GEORGE HOTEL.

Royal Visitors

HE George Inn, as it used to be simply called, or the "Royal George" as it became known after the visit of the Duchess of Kent and the young Princess Victoria, is an ancient hostelry in the centre of old-world Knutsford.

The Building and Old Staircase

The "Royal George" Hotel has an ancient appearance with its old coachway and ample outbuildings to provide stabling and garage. The interior is still more interesting, with its wide oak staircase at the head of which are to be found one of the many ancient clocks, a black shining old oak table and a few chairs artistically carved. The house is roomy and comfortable, with many excellent rooms in which can be found scarce examples of old English furniture.

The "Royal George" Hotel is not only old-world. it has been improved by the introduction of up-to-date conveniences of a modern hotel, but still retains the glories of the old coaching inn. Among the rooms there are several of historical interest. The Queen Victoria bedroom is the actual room in which the Princess Victoria slept on the occasion of her visit to the "George" with the Duchess of Kent, and much of the original furniture has been preserved.

Dancing and Music

Dinner and tea dances are provided at week-ends, and guests dance to the Hotel's Royal Georgeian Dance Orchestra. The "Royal George" is the ideal

place for a sojourn and for those who wish to get away from the anxieties of present-day life in towns.

Christmas Festivities at the Royal George Hotel attract people from every part of the country-no finer setting for Yuletide revels can be imagined.



Antiquities

THERE are many pleasent walls in the immediate vicinity and there is much to interest one in the Hotel itself. Not the least interesting the antiquities to be found at the "Roy I George" the oak bure up anent which a memor indum from Preference Geoffer Callender, M.A., F.S.A., of the Discounter of History, Royal Naval College, Granwich, Landon, S.E. 10, is very illumination.

This entirent authority on Lord Nelson dwells at leads in a incription "HN 1790—Victory," and had evilence to upport his conjecture that the butcau belonged to Lord Nelson in the year 1790, and that he had entirved upon the lock the incription "HN 1790." "The letter 'N' for Nelson and the figure '7' look very much as though they had been written by Nelson himself. The 'N' is almost upon kable—the capital 'V' tells a tale of its own It is except the kind of 'V' that Nelson made before he lost his right arm."

The Round Room in the Royal George Hotel is always an interesting spectacle to visitors. As its name implies it is perfectly round, and door, window and penuine Adams fireplace fit beautifully in the curved wall. It is a truly wonderful room.

The Round R m

The Royal George Hotel is proud of its amenities it is replete with every modern convenience and equipment. A carefully chosen staff assures the sucrets of a willing service, and in all modernising, without detracting from the old world appearance, comfort of guests has been the first care. This, backed by new and modern kitchens and an excellent cellar, account for "the subtle atmosphere of the Royal George Hotel" which so irresistibly attracts the visitor of taste.

Be ides the ballroom, there is a large assembly room capable of holding about 180 people, used for dinners, receptions, &c.

The Ballroom

There is an air of gentility about the house and the sporting prints carry one back to a long past age.

ALCOHOL:

Tariff and general information for the use of guests will be gladly sent on request



Within a Five Mile Radius
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THE ROYAL GEORGE.

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